



6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**We remember
them.**

November is a time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have passed away. We also remember the soldiers who fought bravely and lost their lives during the wars. Every year, the school community unites to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone, who has donated to our Covid-19 fund and cake sale. I was overwhelmed with the response and the donations received. So far we have raised £2800 It is greatly appreciated. The children are looking forward to reading their new home reading books.

Recovery Curriculum

You all did a fantastic job, 'home' schooling your children during lockdown. Since the start of term, the children have been very busy catching up on their missed learning. Every child has been assessed in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and mathematics in order to identify gaps in the children's knowledge. We have introduced a new recovery curriculum to help support your children with their learning. The children are also receiving additional English and mathematics lessons as well as targeted intervention programmes throughout the week.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Recent times have high-lighted the importance of looking after each other. Taking care of our children's mental health and well-being is very important to us at St Joseph's. For example, if the children do not feel good about themselves then they will find it hard to concentrate or be motivated to work. Their moods can also affect others either negatively or positively. This term, we have been focused on ensuring the children are feeling loved/valued, are ready to learn and are following the commandment that Jesus gave to us, which is to 'love one another as I have loved you'. Being kind or being loving towards others, not only lifts the mood of the person being kind, but also has a positive effect on the person receiving the kindness. That is why we have been teaching children to be kind and caring. We know that performing acts of kindness makes us feel good.

Keeping Safe

Over the past term, I have received a number of calls from concerned parents about mass gathering outside the school during drop off and pick up times. This issue was also mentioned at today's Parent Forum. Please remember, we have many vulnerable grandparents picking up their grandchildren but we also have a number of vulnerable families including children who have heart conditions, lung conditions or cancer.

With the introduction of National Lockdown, I would like to remind you all of your civic duty to reduce the spread of Covid. Therefore, please:

- Wear a mask (except those who are exempt).
- Keep the school gates clear.
- Form an orderly queue alongside the hedges (2 metre distance).
- Once you have dropped off or picked up your child, please go home. Please do not mass gather outside the school or opposite the school.
- If you are waiting for a sibling, please wait in your car or 2 metre away from other people.

I am sorry if this comes across 'bossy' or as I am known by my family/friends as the 'Covid Police' but I desperately want our school to remain open. We all certainly do not want to go back to 'home schooling'. Please remember in school our children do not mix so therefore please do not let our hard work go down the drain by mixing outside on the grass area opposite our school (Matlock crescent).

Important Notice: School Admissions: Primary School Place

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents. Applications for admission to our school opened on 2nd November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between **1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017**

Please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire on-line form at:**

(<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>).

When completing the on-line form, please be aware that there are four St Joseph's schools in Hertfordshire so it is very important to select the right St Joseph's. We are St Joseph's in Watford, code number 9193383.

You will also need to complete the **School's Supplementary Information Form** which is obtainable from the school office or the school's website. A **Certificate of Catholic Practice** is also required, which you can get from your church. If you are unable to contact the church, please inform the school office and we will hopefully be able to help you.

All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for our school, the following documents are required:

1. Supplementary Information Form
2. Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
3. Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2021.

Friends of St Joseph's School Association (formerly known as PTA) Christmas Present Appeal

If you have any unwanted gifts/toiletries, please send them into school for our Christmas shop. During the month of December, the children will have the chance to visit the Christmas shop and buy a gift for their parents at a small cost. All money raised will go towards our new 'home' reading books fund.

Snow Procedures

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Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ!



It may snow at some point this term. Therefore, I would just like to remind all parents of the bad weather procedures.

If in the unlikely event the school needs to be closed, please follow any of the procedures listed below:

1. Firstly, a text message will be sent to you via School Gateway. Please ensure the school office has your correct mobile number.
2. Check the school website after 7.35a.m. to see if the school is closed or opening at a later time <http://stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk/parents/emergency-closures>.
3. Check our twitter feed @stjosephs775
4. Contact the school office after 7.45a.m. and listen to the answer machine message.
5. Listen to the local radio stations which will provide updated information on school closures.
6. Register with Everbridge School Closure Notification System following at the following website:<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489>

This link will direct you to the 'Sign Up' page. Click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right-hand side of the page on the grey strip. From there, follow the instructions. It should take no more than five minutes to register. You can add two devices so you may want to include the mobile number and email address of a spouse or grandparent. They will also receive any messages in relation to school closure. Alternatively, other people can register themselves separately.

Please note: this messaging system only applies to notifications of school emergency closure and does not in any way replace our usual School Gateway messaging system. However, please note the School Gateway system can be delayed during busy periods such as snow days.

If you require any assistance in signing up, please contact us.

Important Notices

1. School Closed

The school will be closed on Friday 27th November.



Attendance Award

F1 had the best attendance last week. Well done F1!

Mrs L. Payne

Dates for the diary

November	
Monday 2nd November	Start of term
Week Commencing 16 th November TBC	Year 4 Refugee Mass. A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
Week Commencing 23 rd November TBC	Year 6 Advent Mass A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
Friday 27 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).

December

Thursday 3 rd December	Flu Vaccination Session 8.30a.m. – 12.00p.m.
Friday 4 th December	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 Cancelled
Wednesday 9 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m. A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
Thursday 10 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
Friday 11 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre has been cancelled due to Covid-19
Monday 14 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 17 th December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation 1 & 2 Party
Friday 18 th December	Mass in church or virtual Mass TBC 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. A recording of the Mass will be sent to parents.
21 st December – 4 th January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2021 Spring Term	
Monday 4 th January	Start of term
	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC

February	
Thursday 4 th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. TBC
Friday 5 th February	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 8 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date
Tuesday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 9 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date.
Friday 12 th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
15 th – 19 th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 22 nd February	Start of Term
March	
Monday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly if Covid restriction are lifted.. This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 5 th March	Virtual Parents' Forum
Friday 12 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. Outside/Virtual TBC
Wednesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Friday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)
	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC

Monday 22nd March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 23 rd March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 26th March	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade TBC. Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
Monday 29 th March	Easter School for Year 6 TBC
Tuesday 30 th March	Easter School for Year 6 TBC

April	
Monday 12th April	Start of Term
Friday 16th April	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5 TBC
Friday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

May	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 7 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 rd – 21 st May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 10th – 13th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 10th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 11th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 12th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 13th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Friday 14 th May	Last swimming for Year 5
Monday 17 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 18 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 18 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 20 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 21st May	Swimming starts for Year 6 TBC
Friday 28 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 7th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 8th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Tuesday 15 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 15 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 24 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m

Friday 25 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Friday 25 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 9.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
TBC	Year 6 School Journey

July	
Thursday 1 st July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 2 nd July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 2 nd July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
	Final Year 3 swim – double session TBC
Wednesday 7 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 7 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 8 th July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 9 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 12 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
	Final Year 6 swim – double session TBC
Tuesday 13 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 14 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 15th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.